

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A floor mat laid in a small animals rearing cage for housing and rearing small animals, said floor mat is a sheet comprising a temperature holding property to a degree that can keep the body temperature of said the small animals, a flexibility to a degree that can wrap the body of said the small animals, and a size that covers at least the entire abdomen of said the small animals.
2. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 1, ~~comprising a wherein the size of said sheet for covering covers~~ at least the abdomen and the head of said small animals.
3. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 1, ~~further comprising wherein the sheet has~~ a water absorption property and deodorization property.
4. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 1, ~~further comprising wherein the sheet has~~ a tearing resistance.
5. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 4, ~~comprising an wherein the sheet is formed of an~~ improved cellulose fabric wherein carboxyl group-introduced cellulose is formed in a shape of sheet.
6. (Currently amended) A small animal rearing cage for housing and rearing small animals, said small animal rearing cage comprising: a rearing box having a floor and a wall provided at a circumference of said the floor; and a floor mat formed with a sheet having a temperature holding property to a degree that can keep the body temperature of said the small animals, a flexibility to a degree that can wrap the body of said the small animals, and a size that covers at least the entire abdomen of said the small animals

7. (Currently amended) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 6, wherein said floor mat is laid positioned upon the floor of said rearing box in such a way that a piece of sheet is folded each other to form folds.

8. (Currently amended) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 6, wherein said floor mat is a sheet larger in size than the floor area of said rearing box.

9. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 2, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the sheet has a water absorption property and deodorization property.

10. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 3, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the sheet has a tearing resistance.

11. (Currently amended) The small animal rearing cage according to Claim 7, wherein said floor mat is a sheet larger in size than the floor area of said rearing box.

12. (Currently amended) The floor mat according to Claim 9, ~~further comprising~~ wherein the sheet has a tearing resistance.